

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~preventing or~~ treating thrombocytopenia in a subject having thrombocytopenia, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject an inhibitor of PACAP signalling a compound inhibiting PACAP production and/or activity.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein ~~the inhibitor of PACAP signalling~~ the compound inhibiting PACAP activity targets inhibits expressed mature PACAP or an isoform thereof.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the inhibitor of PACAP signaling targets expressed VIP.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the inhibitor of PACAP signaling targets a receptor for PACAP.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein said receptor for PACAP is the PACAP receptor (PACAPR), VPAC1 or VPAC2.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the inhibitor inhibits the transcription or translation of PACAP, VIP or a receptor of PACAP.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19 wherein said receptor for PACAP is the PACAP receptor (PACAPR), VPAC1 or VPAC2.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claims 14, wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of an antisense molecule, a RNAi, an aptamer, a small molecule, an antibody, a ribozyme, a transdominant receptor, and a tetrameric peptide.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claims 14, wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of max.d.4 5, PACAP6-38, [4-Cl-D-Phe6, Leu17]VIP, VIP(10-28), cyclic lactam analogs of PACAP, [AcHis(1), D-Phe(2), Lys(15), Leu(17)]VIP(3-7)/GRF(8-27), PACAP receptor blocking Cyclic lactam PACAP analogs, N-terminal truncated or substituted VIP peptide PACAP receptor blockers, neutralising antibodies against VPAC(1) and neutralizing aptamer against VPAC(1) receptor.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein said inhibitor compound inhibiting PACAP activity is ~~[[an]]~~ a neutralizing anti-PACAP antibody or ~~[[a]]~~ an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said thrombocytopenia is infection-induced thrombocytopenia or treatment-induced thrombocytopenia.

25. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inhibitor of PACAP signalling and an additional compound for enhancing megakaryocyte maturation.

26. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 25 wherein the compound for enhancing megakaryocyte maturation is thrombopoietin or Interleukin 11.

27. (New) A method of lowering the risk of acquiring or developing thrombocytopenia in a subject having a high probability of acquiring or developing thrombocytopenia, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject a compound inhibiting PACAP production and/or activity.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said subject has cancer and wherein said compound is administered prior or during chemotherapy.

29. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said subject is at risk of developing infection-induced thrombocytopenia.

30. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said compound inhibiting PACAP activity inhibits the expression of PACAP.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein said compound inhibiting PACAP expression is selected from the group consisting of an antisense molecule, a RNAi, and a ribozyme against PACAP.

32. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said neutralizing anti-PACAP antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, is capable of binding to PACAP(1-38).